



The National Fire Plan

FY 2001 Programs in Pennsylvania



Overview

The National Fire Plan implements program activities in five key areas across the landscape. These key points are designed to respond to the severe wildfires of 2000, reduce their impacts on rural communities, and enhance firefighting capabilities in the future. Estimated allocations to PA include (\$ in thousands):

| Firefighting | | Rehab and Restoration | Hazardous Fuel Treatment | Forest Health Projects | Community Assistance | | | | TOTAL |
|--------------|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-------|
| Preparedness | Facilities | | | | State Fire Assistance | Volunteer Fire Assistance | Economic Action Programs | Comm'ty & PrivateLand Fire Assist.. | |
| 262 | 0 | 33 | 170 | 1,208 | 676 | 160 | 0 | 0 | 2,509 |

Firefighting Resources

Staffing the most efficient organizational level (MEL) to provide prompt initial attack suppression on wildfires.

- Preparedness Organization - Increase State resources to 6 engines, 1 dozer, and 200 additional preparedness positions staffed in an effort to move away from a fire militia team to a dedicated, forest fire team, and increase resources within the 20-state Eastern Region to 125 engines, 17 dozers, 525 preparedness positions and one Interagency Hotshot Crew.
- Workforce Development - Plan for 274 new hires within the 20-state Eastern Region (includes seasonal, temporary, and conversions to permanent), and promote Local recruitment to assess the potential to hire 10-20 seasonal employees on a call-as-needed basis to augment existing fire forces.
- Fire Facilities - Invest in Regional facilities planning support, at a cost of approximately \$2 million.

Rehabilitation

Assuring long-term efforts to improve lands unlikely to recover naturally from fire damage.

- Conduct a study in Pennsylvania to examine application of fire regime techniques, to regenerate oak in stands that were initially established by early human use of fire.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Targeting fuel management and reduction on high priority areas, especially wildland-urban interface areas.

- Multiple fuels reduction activities proposed on the Allegheny NF through the National Fire Plan. This complements base program funding for fuel treatment work.
- Forest Health Management has protected more than 160,000 acres from invasive species.

Community Assistance

Enhancing community capacity to reduce wildfire risk and expand local economic opportunities.

- \$150,000 in State Fire Assistance will increase organizational and preparedness skills to assist with firefighting efforts, and \$526,000 will support Hazard Mitigation activities. Grants will be used for training and education, fuel reduction and hazard mitigation, and equipment. An additional \$230,000 is allocated in base program funds.
- \$160,000 in Volunteer Fire Assistance will support training and equipment to meet the needs of a portion of the 2,600 rural volunteer fire departments in Pennsylvania. An additional \$226,000 is allocated in base program funds.
- \$985,000 in National Fire Plan Community Assistance will support activities across the 20 northeastern states. Included are:
 - Economic Action Programs to develop and expand markets for products from removed fuels;
 - Community and Private Land Assistance to enhance stewardship planning and fuel management.

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